

Within the Word

A Study of Joshua 1

A Note from Kathy

It has been said that the best leaders are those who have first learned to serve. This is certainly true of Joshua. He humbly served Moses for many years, from his youth through 40 years in the wilderness. Joshua was a man of great faith, who believed and relied on the promises of God. When the 12 spies returned, 10 gave a fearful report, but Joshua did not hesitate to remind the Israelites that the land was exceedingly good, and if God was pleased with them, God would lead them in and give them the land. We can learn much from this humble, faithful servant of God.

Observation

Read the chapter, at least twice, before beginning the study guide. This will give the Lord an opportunity to help you see the things He desires for you to know.

1. Exodus 33:11 tells us that the Lord spoke to Moses face-to-face, as a man speaks to his friend. Moses loved the Lord and sought to please Him. You may want to read Deuteronomy 34, which describes the last few days of Moses' life. God allowed Moses to see the Promised Land, but he did not go in.

What amazing facts did you learn about Moses in Deuteronomy 34:7?

What did you learn about Joshua in Deuteronomy 34:9?

2. God called Joshua to lead the Israelites into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord described the borders of the land they would be given. What were the specific boundaries?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
3. Notice the promise of victory God gave Joshua. God did not say they would simply walk in and live in ease. He did not say there would be no one in the land. What was the three-fold promise the Lord gave to Joshua in verse 5?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. After reading verses 6- 9, what can one predict will be coming?

5. This new leadership position would not be easy, what command does God repeat three times, in verses 6, 7, and 9?
6. According to verse 8, what did God say would be the key to Joshua's success?
7. What special instructions were given to the men of the tribe of Reuben, Gad, and ½ tribe of Manasseh?
8. What was the response of the Reubenites, Gadites, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh?
9. According to verse 18, what was the punishment for anyone who did not fully obey the commands of the Lord?

Application

1. In Joshua 1, the children of Israel are camped east of the Jordan River. Many years earlier the Israelites had been camped near this very spot. God instructed them to choose 12 men, one from each tribe, to go in, spy out the land, and report back what they had seen. Numbers 13 tells the story. Ten of the 12 came back with a very negative report, and the hearts of the Israelites melted. Because of their lack of faith, God told them they would wander in the desert for 40 years until another generation grew up who would trust and believe. Moses was the leader of a nation that numbered possibly 1-2 million people. Numbers 11:28 tells us that Joshua had been Moses' aide since youth. What important leadership lessons do you believe Joshua learned as he served under Moses?
2. Good leaders are crucial in every organization, family, or ministry. Being second or lower in rank is seldom our goal. Yet we all know, that if a person has learned to serve well, those who are in authority, that person will be a much better leader. Would you say you are a good follower? Would others say you follow well?
3. What are some of the qualities necessary in order to be a good follower?
4. Wives are never to be treated as second-class citizens, but according to Ephesians 5:22-25, the man is the head of the home. With this in mind would you say you are being the best wife/helper you can be? Do you show respect? Do you look for ways to help him be his best? Do you pray for him to have favor with God and man?
5. If you are employed, how do you respond to authorities over you? Do you show respect? Do you look for ways to help your leaders be their best? Do you willingly serve without always looking for recognition or compensation?

6. Numbers 11:28 tells us Joshua served Moses from his youth and then spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness, along with Israel. Joshua was probably around 60 years old at the time he was called to lead Israel. These had been valuable years of training for him. Scripture tells us Moses was a man who spoke to God face-to-face. Who is your mentor? Is he or she someone who talks to God? Is he or she someone who regularly hears from God?
7. When called upon to lead, do you feel the presence of God? Do you, like Joshua, rely on the word of God to guide you? As a child of God, what are some of His promises to you?
8. The Lord instructed Joshua to be strong and courageous. I'm sure Joshua heard these words and anticipated conflict ahead. Do you face anticipated conflict with a Joshua attitude? Think back on the last time you anticipated conflict; what were your thoughts?
9. The key for a believer's success today is the same key the Lord told Joshua. Read verses 8-9 again, and write a short paragraph about your plan for success. What must believers faithfully and consistently do?
10. Consider this past week. In the table below, estimate how many hours of each 24-hour day was spent on eating, sleeping, personal activities, attention to others, work, worship?

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eating							
Sleeping							
Personal activities							
Attentive to others							
Work							
Worship/time with the Lord							

11. The chart on question 10 was not busy work. Look back over it, now that it is filled in, are there areas you believe you need to make some changes?
12. Joshua told the people to prepare for battle in three days. They would be fighting physically against the inhabitants of the land. They would need to prepare themselves and their weapons for war. But quite often the battles we face are spiritual battles with our enemy, Satan. What must we do today, in order to prepare for the battles that lie ahead?
13. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ the tribe of Manasseh had already been allotted their land east of the Jordan River. But they were not to occupy their land until they had helped their brothers take the land over the Jordan. They were faithful to their word. That is commitment! What has the Lord instructed you to do? Are you faithfully carrying out all your commitments?

14. Do you place a high value on participating in kingdom work? What part of God's work are you involved in? We are not all called to lead like Joshua, but as children of God we are all called to share the work. Believers are given certain gifts by the Holy Spirit, and we are to use them to bring God glory. We have seen a great deal about serving in this chapter. Read the verses below that speak to this idea of serving. What is your attitude toward serving?

1 Peter 4:10-11

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Psalms 100:2

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

15. The children of Israel vowed to obey Joshua, just as they had obeyed Moses. Did they always serve Moses with a smile and complete obedience? Can you relate to their desire to obey?
16. Do people rebel against the word of the Lord today? Has God changed? Is He less interested today in obedience and personal holiness than He was in Joshua's day?
17. We cannot be obedient to what we do not know. I am so proud of you for making time to study and meditate on God's word. Obedience to the "truth we know" is a decision. Will some of the areas God has spoken to you about this week require a fresh commitment? List them here, and discuss them in your small group. Accountability helps us stay focused.
18. Why not give God a few more minutes, and write a prayer below thanking Him for all you have gleaned from this chapter?